

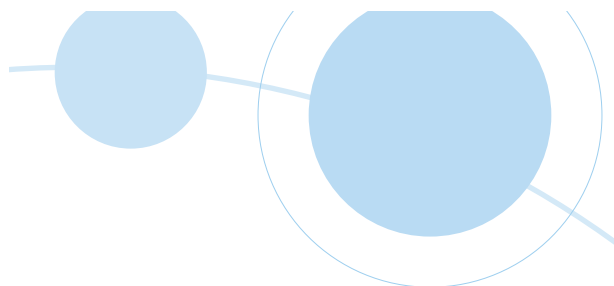


Quick reference guide for teachers on cybersafety and cyberbullying

November 2011



Queensland Government



Introduction

The rapid advances in digital technology, including computers and smart phones, provide both enormous opportunities and complex challenges for schools. Teaching students to use technology appropriately and responsibly, and also how to behave in ways to enhance their own safety, can and should be incorporated in every school's curriculum.

Unlike previous generations, children and young people are engaging with technology at earlier ages, and seem to meld their offline and online lives seamlessly. We know that many children are not receiving information about cybersafety until they are seven or eight years of age, when they may have already been online for three years or more.

We also know children and young people do not always comprehend the consequences of their actions online, and that the 'digital footprint' they create in their youth may adversely impact on their future.¹

It is also apparent that while children and young people may be savvy with technology, they may be less aware of some dangers to which they may be exposed, such as identity theft, or that certain behaviour, like sharing passwords or passing on some types of information, is inappropriate.

Cybersafety refers to the safe and responsible use of information and communication technologies, and includes protecting your personal information online, surfing the net safely and being aware of inappropriate behaviours.

With the increase in online socialising by young people, cyberbullying is emerging as a new frontier of bullying, with an extensive reach into all facets of the lives of young people. Cyberbullying, like traditional bullying, is related to behaviour that involves the systematic and repeated abuse of power.

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that occurs through the use of information or communication technologies such as instant messaging, text messages, email and social networking sites. It has many similarities with offline bullying, but it differs in that the student who is bullying can be anonymous, it can reach a wide audience, and any material sent or uploaded can be difficult to remove.²

Enhancing children and young people's knowledge of cyberbullying — what it is, how to respond, and how to keep themselves safe online — is critical for creating confident, resilient individuals, and avoiding the long-term damage that can arise from bullying.

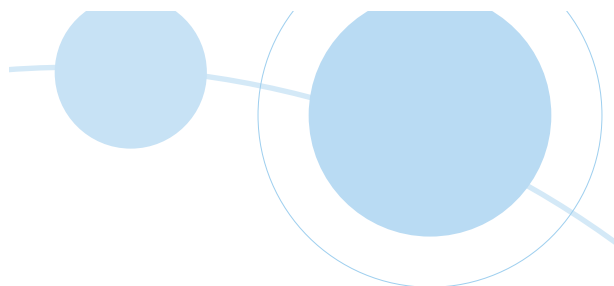
Why are teachers important?

Bullying and cyberbullying seem to peak at certain times for children and young people, such as pre-school to primary school, Years 4 and 5 and the transition from primary school to high school.

While cyberbullying and cybersafety are community issues which require a response from parents and the broader community, teachers can play an important part in helping children

¹ Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety (2011). *High-Wire Act: Cyber-Safety and the Young*.

² MCEECDYA (2011). *National Safe Schools Framework Resource Manual*.



and young people understand how to use technology ethically and responsibly, as well as how to identify and respond to incidents of cyberbullying.

We know from the research that teachers have an incredible influence on the outcomes of the children and young people they teach.³ As we move towards a digital economy, it is critical that teachers develop the skills and enlist the resources to assist children and young people become responsible digital citizens.

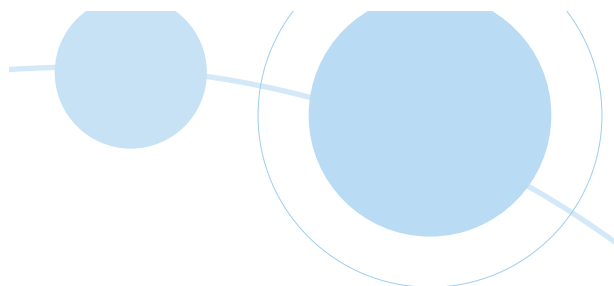
Teachers have an important and valued role to play in the education of children and young people, and to assist them to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of cybersafety and cyberbullying. The directory below outlines resources and training currently available to teachers.

What resources are available?

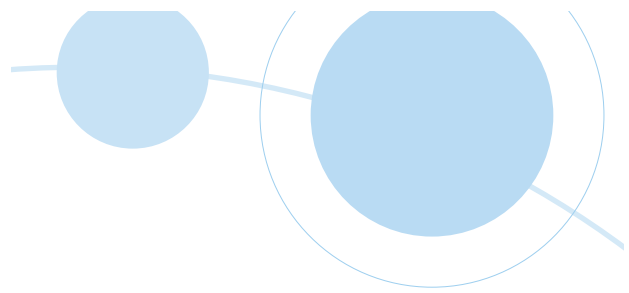
This directory lists some programs and resources for teachers and other educators related to cybersafety and cyberbullying.

Awareness raising for teachers	
Internet Safety Awareness Presentations offered by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, provides general internet safety awareness presentations for teachers, parents and students as part of the <i>Cybersmart Outreach</i> program.	http://acma.janison.com/acma/PortalContent.aspx?type=page&identifier=eventLogon
<i>Bullying No Way!</i> provides information for teachers explaining the concepts of bullying, cyberbullying and harassment.	http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/gettingstarted/ideasforteachersparents.shtml
Teachers and Parents Advisory Group on Cybersafety is a forum to share ideas on how to best protect children, and how to promote online safety messages to Australian families.	https://tap.yag.gov.au/index.php
Department of Education and Training has resources and fact sheets for schools, teachers and parents.	http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/behaviour/qaav/index.html
<i>Who's Chatting to your Kids? & Surf Safely</i> – Queensland Police Service provides practical information about internet safety, including the technology being used by children, and how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim.	http://www.police.qld.gov.au/Resources/Internet/programs/personalSafety/documents/Whos%20chatting%20to%20your%20kids.pdf
<i>ThinkUknow Campaign</i> – Australian Federal Police provides information and resources on cybersafety to parents, carers, teachers and youth aged 11 to 17 years.	http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/

³ McKinsey and Company (2007). How the world's best-performing school systems come out on top.



Resources for teachers	
Tagged! is a film resource which is designed to encourage young people to reflect on the real life consequences of cyberbullying, sexting and a negative digital reputation. It is supported by lesson plans, as well as character reflection interviews, and is appropriate for young people aged 14 years and over.	http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/tagged/schools.htm
Cybersmart Teacher Resources provide resources for primary and secondary teachers to support cybersafety education.	http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Schools/Teacher%20resources.aspx
Bullying No Way! offers a range of resources and ideas for teachers to use in the classroom, including for children under 8 — Junior Chill Out — as well as older children and young people.	http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/gettingstarted/ideasforteachersparents.shtm
Budd:e-cybersecurity education package comprises a series of media-rich and interactive learning activities for Australian school students. It has two learning modules, one for primary students and one for secondary students, which help student adopt safe and secure online practices.	http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/schools_and_teachers
Hector's World is an online game for children aged 2–9 years designed to offer practical guidance on managing risks and reinforce the importance of responsible online behaviour.	http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Young%20Kids/Hectors%20World.aspx
Cybersmart Detectives is an online game in which children (aged 11–12) interact in real time with approved internet safety experts working in 'virtual control rooms'.	http://cybersmart.engagelive.net/
CyberNetrix offers interactive online safety tools aimed at secondary school students (aged 13–16). While the students can interact with the program, the teacher guide includes an additional 11 downloadable activities for students.	http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/cybernetrix/
CyberQuoll is an online safety resource aimed at upper primary school students (aged 8–12). It covers cyberbullying, scams and hoaxes, netiquette and dodgy content on internet sites, and is recommended for use by teachers, students and parents.	http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/cyberquoll/
Let's fight it together is a comprehensive teaching resource on cyberbullying, and includes lesson plans and a video. It is designed to help young people (aged 12–13), teachers and parents understand the issues around cyberbullying.	http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Schools/Teacher%20resources/Lower%20secondary/Lets%20fight%20it%20together.aspx



Cybersmart Access addresses the cybersafety needs of children and young people with learning difficulties in mainstream and special education schools. It is developed to teach students how to protect themselves from potential online dangers.	http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Schools/Teacher%20resources/Cybersmart%20Access.aspx
ThinkUknow Megan's story is a resource designed for teachers and students in Years 7 to 12 to interrogate the issue of sexting. The accompanying lesson plan includes discussion questions and activities designed to stimulate discussion.	http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/megansstory.asp
Kids Help Line has partnered with Optus to create a cybersafety lesson plan pack to educate students about cyberbullying and sexting.	http://www.kidshelp.com.au/grownups/getting-help/cyberspace/teachers.php
Common Sense Media (US) is a not-for-profit organisation which provides a comprehensive cybersafety curriculum, as well as other materials.	http://www.common sense media.org/educators/curriculum
NetSafe (NZ) is a resource hub for internet safety in New Zealand, providing cybersafety education for children, parents, schools, community organisations and businesses.	http://www.netsafe.org.nz/
Netsafe NZ Cyberbullying provides advice and information for teachers, young people and parents about how to deal with cyberbullying.	http://www.cyberbullying.org.nz
Digital Citizenship Lessons (NSW) covers topics including security, digital footprints, making friends, purchasing online and netiquette.	http://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au/
Teachers TV (UK) offers anti-bullying videos to use as teaching resources.	http://www.teachersmedia.co.uk/wholeschool/secondary/bullying
Professional development for teachers	
Cybersafety Outreach – Professional Development for Educators program is a free one-day workshop designed to provide primary and secondary teachers with a comprehensive understanding of the technology students are using, as well as current cybersafety issues and risks.	http://acma.janison.com/acma/PortalContent.aspx?type=page&identifier=eventLogon/
Connect.ed is an online self-paced education program for primary and secondary teachers. Through this program, teachers can learn about current online behaviours, potential risks involved in these activities, and appropriate tools, resources and strategies to help students have safe and positive experiences online.	http://acma.janison.com/acma/